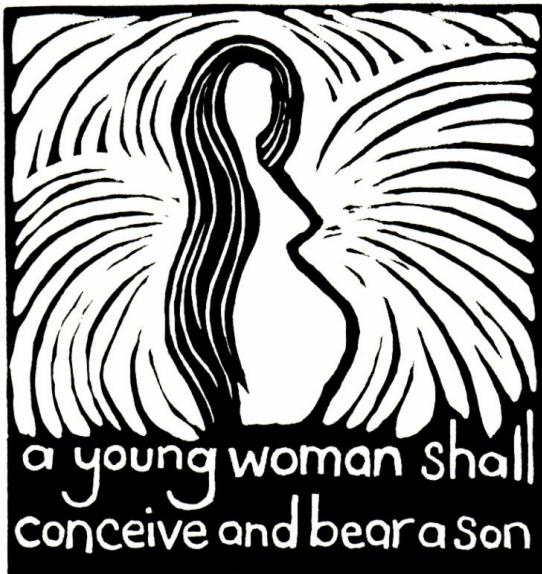




SteepleTalk

*Find out what's going on and what's coming up
in the life and ministry at John Knox Presbyterian Church.*

Visit our Website



This Sunday's Worship **4th Sunday of Advent**

[Luke1:39-45](#)

[Luke1:46-55](#)

"Song of Mary"

Gordon Turnbull

Click [here](#) for bulletin

**There will be no Wednesday Night Live on
December 21, 28, or January 4. We will resume
on January 11. See you then!**

**Wanted: Artists for
Worship!**

Many of you have remarked upon the line drawings regularly featured in our worship bulletins. This artwork is another way of communicating the essence of a worship theme or scriptural passage. We would like future bulletins to feature the handiwork of our own artists here at John Knox.

Do you love to draw? Let us know if you would be interested in preparing line drawings for the bulletins in upcoming services. As we move into next year's worship with *The Jesus Storybook Bible*, we hope to assign artists to prepare a featured image for worship on particular Sundays. Artists of all ages are invited to volunteer: moms and dads may help their young artists understand and depict the selected story.

If you would like to offer your artistic gifts for worship, please contact Gordon Turnbull at the church (244-0453; gturnbull@johnknoxpres.org).



Children's Ministry News

Children's Christmas Gathering

Our younger children enjoyed some Christmas crafts and snacks on Sunday, December 11. They learned how the candy cane can remind them of the real meaning of Christmas, and they heard a story about the stable where Jesus was born, and then made a manger scene. We ended our time together with a Christmas movie. Thank you to everyone who came out to celebrate the season!





Children's Choirs

The children will be singing this Sunday, December 18 at both services. If your family attends the 8:45 service, please have your child meet Mrs. Martin in the hallway outside the Chapel at 8:40. If your family attends the 11:00 service, we will get the children from Sunday School a few minutes early, and walk them to the sanctuary to sing at the beginning of the service. Parents can go ahead and get a good seat! At both services, the children will come sit with their parents after they sing. If your child would like to sing at both services, they are welcome to do so! We like having lots of their beautiful voices singing together!

Please refer to your Children's Ministry Newsletter for more details about these and other events for our children! Any questions, contact Susan Felton at sfelton@johnknoxpres.org.

Youth News

Thornwell Christmas Party

Our John Knox Youth will be hosting a Christmas Party for the children at Thornwell this Sunday, December 18. All youth should meet at the church (back parking lot) at 1:00 to carpool to Thornwell. The party is from 2:00 to 4:00. We will return to John Knox around 5:00. We will treat the Thornwell children to some fun Christmas crafts, delicious snacks, holiday music from our own DJ, Patrick Rogers, and a picture with Santa. This will be our youth activity for that day. Thank you to Linda Dann and Anna Kenan for helping organize this party for us. **We will need some parents to help drive so please think about going with us!** This is a wonderful opportunity for us to continue our mission for the children at Thornwell, so we hope that lots of our youth can join us! **Please let Susan Felton know if your youth is going and if you can drive!**



Finishing Strong in 2016

The end of the year is close at hand, and our leaders and staff are working hard to complete our work for the year and plan for the year ahead. As we finish this year, here are things that each of us can do to strengthen the church's ministry.

Fulfill your 2016 commitment

Have you fulfilled your pledge for 2016? If you are not sure, feel free to call Brett Simmons at the church for an update on your pledge status.

Consider extra giving

Many people choose to remember or honor loved ones with special gifts to the church at Christmas.

Others plan significant donations to worthy causes at year's end. Some seek to maximize their tax savings by making sizeable gifts. This kind of giving makes a big difference to our ministry. Please consider John Knox Presbyterian Church with this kind of year-end, "above-and-beyond" giving.

Pledge for 2017

Our budget depends mainly upon *pledged* offerings; we cannot plan responsibly for ministry without these commitments. If you know that you want to support Christ's ministry through our church, please communicate that desire by submitting a pledge toward our work together.

Pray for John Knox

The financial work of our church serves and equips the greater, spiritual work to which we are called. Please join in asking God to enrich our life and direct our work together so that every aspect of our ministry glorifies the Lord we serve.



Ornaments

Time is running out! The youth are selling these beautiful wooden Christmas ornaments and supplies are limited! Ornaments are \$12 apiece, and will be available for purchase Sunday before and after each church service. They are also available in the church office. Please plan to purchase one of these for your collection. Thank you for supporting our youth!



Holiday Calendar

Sunday, December 18 - 4th Sunday of Advent

Worship Services at 8:45 and 11:00 AM ~ Christmas Joy Offering will be collected.

Wednesday, December 21

No Wednesday Night programs

Saturday, December 24 - Christmas Eve

5:00 PM - A Family Christmas Eve Service in the Sanctuary

5:45 PM - Christmas Banquet - Pre-paid envelopes will be available in the church pews beginning November 20. Please turn in your reservations by Dec. 21.

7:00 PM - Our Traditional Christmas Eve Service- Sanctuary with Communion and Candle Lights

11:00 PM - Casual Christmas Eve Service - Chapel

Sunday, December 25 - Christmas Day

One Worship Service at 10:30 AM in the Sanctuary (no Sunday School)

THE WEEK AHEAD

Monday, December 19

7:00 AM Men's Prayer Breakfast

Tuesday, December 20

10:00 AM Quilters

7:00 PM Volleyball
Boy Scouts
Ladies' Bible Study

Wednesday, December 21

10:30 AM Staff Meeting

6:15 PM Bell Practice

7:20 Chalice Choir practice

7:30 Chancel Choir practice

Saturday, December 24

5:00 PM Christmas Eve Service
Chin Church Gathering

5:45 Christmas Eve Dinner

7:00 Christmas Eve Service

11:00 Christmas Eve Service

Sunday, December 25

10:30 AM Worship in Sanctuary

No Sunday School

1:30 Chin Church Worship

HAPPY BIRTHDAY!

December

15 - Beau Gailey, Rick Turner

17 - Andy Wettlin, Mills Grant, Jack Lewis

18 - Gram Grant

19 - Margaret Martin, Kim Avila

20 - Mary Stall

21 - Kyle Jackson, Carolyn Alexander, Thomas Kruminis

Mailbox

United Ministries

On Food Sunday in December, we donated \$400.00 worth of food to the United Ministries food bank.

Thank you to everyone who took part in this ministry.



By the Numbers

Attendance on December 11:
8:45 - 70
11:00 - 225

Weekly Expense Budget: \$17,827.00
Weekly Offering Received: \$21,873.90
Expense Budget YTD: \$891,350.00
Offering Received YTD: \$768,882.51



First Gift

2017 Stewardship and Mission Giving

Pledges Received To Date: 180
Amount Pledged: \$696,432.00

Please return pledge cards to church office as soon as possible. Thankyou!

Please email all submissions for Steepletalk to mScott@johnknoxpres.org. For Thursday publication, information must be received by Tuesday at 12 PM.

Edited by Mandy Scott
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